

## **REMARKS**

In the Official Action mailed on **May 26, 2004**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-30. The substitute specification filed September 11, 2001 was not entered. Claims 12-25 and 27-30 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-11 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Varghese et al. (USPN 6,449,256, hereinafter "Varghese").

### **Substitute specification**

The substitute specification filed September 11, 2001 was not entered.

Applicant has no record of filing a substitute specification circa September 11, 2001. Moreover, Applicant respectfully points out that PAIR shows no entries between September 29, 2000 and March 11, 2002 for this case, serial number 09/580,022.

### **Withdrawn claims**

Claims 12-25 and 27-30 were withdrawn from consideration because they were drawn to a non-elected species.

Applicant has canceled claims 12-25 and 27-30 without prejudice..

### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)**

Claims 1-11 and 26 were rejected as being anticipated by Varghese. Applicant respectfully points out that Varghese teaches providing the **first match** if multiple filters match (see Varghese, col. 9, lines 61-62) and **rebuilding the tables** when the router gets new routing updates (see Varghese, col. 10, lines 53-56).

In contrast, the present invention uses a content addressable memory that automatically provides the **longest match** (see page 6, line 15 to page 7, line 6 of the instant application) and that stores entries in **random order**, thereby obviating

the need to rebuild the tables when the router gets new routing updates (see page 6, lines 2-3 of the instant application). Automatically finding the longest match and being able to add new entries in random order are beneficial because it provides the correct routing and the ability to add new entries without rebuilding the tables. There is nothing in Varghese, either explicit or implicit, which suggests using a content addressable memory that automatically provides the longest match and that stores entries in random order. In fact, Varghese teaches away from these concepts by providing the first match and rebuilding the tables when the router gets new routing updates.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, and 26 to clarify that the present invention uses a content addressable memory that automatically provides the longest match and that stores entries in random order. These amendments find support on page 6, line 15 to page 7, line 6, and on page 6, lines 2-3 of the instant application

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, and 26 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-8, which depend upon claim 1, and claims 10-11, which depend upon claim 9, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

**CONCLUSION**

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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